

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anne Kornbau on Dec. 19, 2008.

In The Abstract:

Please delete lines 1-6. Line 7, please delete " invention solves the above objects by providing"; please change " a" to --- A ---.

In The Claims:

In claim 1: Line 4, please delete " after draining". Line 5, please delete, " the water from the soaked rice grains".

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no suggestion in Morohashi et al (Jp 2000-175636) to crush the rice grains after soaking so that trehalose or maltitol can be penetrated into the rice grains. Morahashi et al do not teach the crushing step or provide any suggestion for adding trehalose. While Nakamura et al teach that trehalose is an additive to add to rice, the process disclosed by Nakamura et al is different from Morohashi et al and does not provide motivation for one to add trehalose to the Morohashi et al rice grains after crushing. Nakamura teach to add trehalose during soaking of the rice grains, not adding after the rice grains are crushed.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1408. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 19, 2008

/Lien T Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

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